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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000008

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS AND CA/OCS  
STATE PLEASE ALSO PASS USAID/DCHA/OFDA - THAYER, FLEMING,  
GARVELINK  
BANGKOK OF USAID/OFDA - TOM DOLAN  
DELHI FOR FAS  
GENEVA FOR NANCY KYLOW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2015  
TAGS: [AEMR](#) [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [CE](#) [MV](#)  
SUBJECT: TFX001: MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA, SITREP NO. 6,  
JANUARY 2

REF: COLOMBO 0001 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: AMB. JEFFREY J. LUNSTEAD. REASON: 1.4 (B,D).

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SRI LANKA  
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[11](#). (U) American Citizens: The number of Americans confirmed killed stands at 7; 67 reports of missing Americans received by the Consular Section remain unresolved; 267 welfare/whereabouts cases have been resolved.

[12](#). (U) Casualty Figures: According to the Ministry of Social Services, the number of people killed in the December 26 tsunami has reached 29,729; 5,240 remain missing.

[13](#). (C) U.S. Actions/Assistance: On January 2 the Ambassador hosted a meeting of COMs from members of the core group. Brigadier General Panter, the head of the Sri Lanka JTF, is expected in Sri Lanka late January 2. About 200 U.S. Marines are expected in Sri Lanka as part of the disaster relief effort by January 3. A total of seven AH-60 helicopters are expected in Sri Lanka by January 3. The DATT, accompanied by a member of the Disaster Relief Assessment Team (DRAT), met with Defense Secretary Ashoka Jayawardene and the three Sri Lankan service chiefs on January 2 to brief on overall U.S. assistance and on capabilities possible under assistance provided by the U.S. military. DATT emphasized to Jayawardene that the Ambassador wants U.S. assistance in Sri Lanka to be part of a balanced geographic response to the disaster. Jayawardene will brief President Kumaratunga the evening of January 2 and expects to receive her approval. AID Mission Director, USAID/OFDA DART leader and poloff met with S. Puleedevan, head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Peace Secretariat, at the Norwegian Ambassador's residence on January 2 to brief on USG assistance to Sri Lanka, including the north and east (septel). Six members of the Los Angeles Fire Department disaster response team, who are under contract to USAID/OFDA, arrived in Sri Lanka January 2 to be part of the DART team.

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MALDIVES  
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[14](#). (SBU) A combined team (Embassy, DART, DATT, DRAT) arrived in Maldives on January 2 to meet with government officials and conduct initial assessments. The first planeload of USAID/OFDA supplies (carrying plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, water bladder, jerry cans) is expected in Maldives January 3, while the first planeload of DOD-supplied humanitarian rations is expected on January 3 as well.  
LUNSTEAD